LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following listing, if entered, replaces all prior versions of the claims in the present application.

1.   (Currently Amended) A **computer-implemented** method comprising:

receiving invoice information in an application-specific data object format from each of a plurality of applications; ~~and~~

translating the invoice information into a common invoice data object format**;**

and

determining essential data elements of the common invoice data object

format, wherein

the essential data elements comprise

an identification data element,

a base data element,

a pricing data element,

a shipping data element, and

a line item details data element.

2.   (Currently Amended) The **computer-implemented** method of claim 1 further comprising:

inter-exchanging invoice information in the common invoice data object format between two or more of the plurality of applications.

3.   (Currently Amended) The **computer-implemented** method of claim 2 further comprising:

translating invoice information in the common invoice data object to an application-specific data object format for use by a respective application.

4.   (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 3 wherein the common invoice data object format uses an extensible markup language format.

5.   (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 4 further comprising the precedent operations of:

~~determining essential data elements of a common invoice data object format;~~ ~~and~~

creating a common invoice data object format including at least the essential data elements.

6.   (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim [[5]] 1 wherein the essential data elements are determined based upon elements of a plurality of application-specific data object formats.

7.   (Cancelled)

8.   (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim [[7]] 6 wherein the common invoice data object format includes at least one complex data element.

9.   (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 8 wherein the common invoice data object format includes one or more related data elements selected from the group consisting of a related party data element, a related payment method data element, a related payment terms data element, and a related comments data element.

10.   (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage medium; ~~having stored thereon~~ a data structure, wherein the data structure is stored on the machine-readable storage medium, and

- 4 -

the data structure ~~using~~ <u>uses</u> an extensible markup language format, the data structure comprising:

an invoice identification data element;

an invoice base data element;

an invoice pricing data element;

an invoice shipping data element; and

an invoice line item details data element.

11.   **(Currently Amended)** The machine-readable <u>storage</u> medium of claim 10 wherein the data structure further comprises:

at least one complex data element.

12.   **(Currently Amended)** The machine-readable <u>storage</u> medium of claim 11 wherein the data structure further comprises:

one or more related data elements selected from the group consisting of a related

party data element, a related payment method data element, a related

payment terms data element, and a related comments data element.

13.   **(Currently Amended)** A machine-readable medium that provides executable instructions, which, when executed by a computing system, cause the computing system to perform a method comprising:

receiving invoice information in an application-specific data object format from

each of a plurality of applications; ~~and~~

translating the invoice information into a common invoice data object format<u>;</u>

<u>and</u>

<u>determining essential data elements of the common invoice data object</u>

<u>format, wherein</u>

<u>the essential data elements comprise</u>

<u>an identification data element,</u>

<u>a base data element,</u>

- 5 -

a pricing data element,

a shipping data element, and

a line item details data element.

14. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the method further comprises:

inter-exchanging invoice information in the common invoice data object format between two or more of the plurality of applications.

15. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 14 wherein the method further comprises:

translating invoice information in the common invoice data object to an

application-specific data object format for use by a respective application.

16. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 15 wherein the common invoice data object format uses an extensible markup language format.

17. **(Currently Amended)** The machine-readable medium of claim 16 wherein the method further comprises the precedent operations of:

~~determining essential data elements of a common invoice data object format; and~~

creating a common invoice data object format including at least the essential data elements.

18. **(Currently Amended)** The machine-readable medium of claim [[17]] 1 wherein the essential data elements are determined based upon elements of a plurality of application-specific data object formats.

19. **(Cancelled)**

- 6 -

20. **(Currently Amended)** The machine-readable medium of claim [[19]] <u>18</u> wherein the common invoice data object format includes at least one complex data element.

21. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 20 wherein the common invoice data object format includes one or more related data elements selected from the group consisting of a related party data element, a related payment method data element, a related payment terms data element, and a related comments data element.

22. **(Currently Amended)** A system comprising:

a plurality of processing systems, each processing system storing at least one application that processes invoice information, the invoice information having an application-specific data object format; and

an integration server, coupled via a network, to each of the plurality of processing systems, the integration server translating invoice information from an application specific data object format to a common invoice data object format, <u>wherein</u>

<u>the common invoice data object format comprises a set of essential data elements,</u>

<u>the set of essential data elements are determined based upon elements of a plurality of application-specific data object formats, and</u>

<u>the set of essential data elements comprise</u>

<u>an identification data element,</u>

<u>a base data element,</u>

<u>a pricing data element,</u>

<u>a shipping data element, and</u>

<u>a line item details data element.</u>

- 7 -

23. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein invoice information in the common invoice data object format is inter-exchanged between two or more processing systems.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein the common invoice data object format uses an extensible markup language format.

25. **(Cancelled)**

26. **(Cancelled)**

27. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim [[26]] 24 wherein the common invoice data object format includes at least one complex data element.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the common invoice data object format includes one or more related data elements selected from the group consisting of a related party data element, a related payment method data element, a related payment terms data element, and a related comments data element.